

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ALLEN HAMMLER,

Plaintiff,

v.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, *et al.*,

Defendants.

No. 1:20-cv-00630-DAD-GSA (PC)

ORDER ADOPTING IN PART FINDINGS  
AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND  
REQUIRING PLAINTIFF TO SUBMIT AN *IN  
FORMA PAUPERIS* APPLICATION OR PAY  
THE REQUIRED FILING FEE

(Doc. No. 5)

Plaintiff Allen Hammler is a state prisoner proceeding *pro se* with this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. (Doc. Nos. 1.) He has also been deemed a vexatious litigant. (See Doc. No. 2.) The matter was referred to a United States Magistrate Judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and Local Rule 302.

On May 8, 2020, the assigned magistrate judge issued findings and recommendations, recommending that plaintiff be denied leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g) in this action and that he be required to submit the \$400.00 filing fee in full within thirty (30) days. (Doc. No. 5.)<sup>1</sup> The findings and recommendations were served on plaintiff and

<sup>1</sup> That recommendation was based upon a finding that plaintiff had suffered three prior strike dismissals and that the allegations of his complaint did not qualify him under the “imminent danger” exception under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). (Doc. No. 5.)

1 contained notice that any objections thereto were to be filed within fourteen (14) days of service.

2 (*Id.* at 6.) On May 21, 2020, plaintiff filed timely objections. (Doc. No. 8.)

3 In accordance with the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636 (b)(1)(B) and Local Rule 304, the  
4 court has conducted a *de novo* review of this case. Having carefully reviewed the entire file,  
5 including plaintiff's objections, the court will adopt in part the findings and recommendations and  
6 order plaintiff to either: 1) submit a complete *in forma pauperis* application, along with a  
7 certified copy of his prison trust account statement for the 6-month period preceding the filing of  
8 the complaint; or 2) pay the \$400.00 filing fee in full.

9 In his objections, plaintiff contends that he is in imminent danger of serious physical  
10 injury because the prison's failure to provide him with the correct medications caused "a  
11 chemical imbalance [which] itself [is] a physical injury." (Doc. No. 8 at 2.) This chemical  
12 imbalance, plaintiff claims, also causes him to feel "freezing cold even in hot/warm places" and  
13 experience muscle spasms, tremors, and impaired vision. (*Id.* at 3.) The undersigned concludes  
14 that these allegations satisfy the imminent danger exception to the three strikes bar under 28  
15 U.S.C. § 1915(g). *See Andrews v. Cervantes*, 493 F.3d 1047, 1055 (9th Cir. 2007) (holding that  
16 "§ 1915(g) concerns only a threshold procedural question" and that "we should not make an  
17 overly detailed inquiry" into whether plaintiff's allegations qualify for the exception); *see also*  
18 *Williams v. Paramo*, 775 F.3d 1182, 1189-90 (9th Cir. 2015) ("[T]he limited office of § 1915(g)  
19 in determining whether a prisoner can proceed *in forma pauperis* counsels against an overly  
20 detailed inquiry into the allegations that qualify for the exception.").

21 However, plaintiff has failed to demonstrate that he is unable to pay the filing fee. Under  
22 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a), he is first required to show that he is indigent by submitting an application  
23 to proceed *in forma pauperis* and a copy of his prison trust account statement. If he meets this  
24 required showing but is otherwise barred because he has brought three or more cases that were  
25 dismissed as frivolous, malicious, or for failing to state a claim, then he can nevertheless proceed  
26 with the action if he can show he was in imminent danger of serious physical injury at the time he  
27 filed the complaint. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). However, plaintiff may not proceed *in forma pauperis*  
28 based solely on a showing that he was in "imminent danger" at the time he filed his complaint

1 without first addressing § 1915(a)'s requirements.

2 Accordingly:

3 1. The findings and recommendations issued on May 8, 2020 (Doc. No. 5) are  
4 adopted in part;

5 2. Within thirty (30) days of service of this order, plaintiff is directed to either:

6 a. Submit a complete *in forma pauperis* application, along with a certified  
7 copy of his prison trust account statement for the 6-month period preceding  
8 the filing of the complaint; or

9 b. Pay the \$400.00 filing fee in full for this action; and

10 3. Plaintiff is warned that failure to comply with this order shall result in the  
11 dismissal of this case.

12 IT IS SO ORDERED.

13 Dated: June 3, 2020

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16 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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